

I claim:

1. A keyword associated with data contained in a file storage system, comprising:
a parameter comprising a first portion of the keyword, the parameter
5 identifying the data, the parameter describing an attribute of the data; and
a parameter value comprising a second portion of the keyword, the
parameter value being based upon the data.
2. The keyword of claim 1, wherein the parameter is user-defined.
- 10 3. The keyword of claim 1, wherein the parameter and the parameter value are
linked as a contiguous text string.
4. The keyword of claim 1, wherein the parameter further comprises a units designator,
the units designator comprising a portion of the parameter, the units designator indicating the
15 units of measurement for the parameter value.
5. The keyword of claim 1, further comprising a pointer, the pointer comprising a
third portion of the keyword, the pointer pointing to the data.
6. The keyword of claim 5, further comprising a plurality of keywords, the plurality
of keywords being an index of the data pointed to by one or more pointers contained within at
20 least one of the plurality of keywords.
7. The keyword of claim 1, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is
semi-structured data.
8. The keyword of claim 7, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is
hypertext data.

9. The keyword of claim 1, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is unstructured data.

10. The keyword of claim 9, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is text data.

5 11. The keyword of claim 1, wherein the keyword is a first keyword, the data contained in the file storage system is first data contained in the file storage system and the parameter is a first parameter, further comprising a second keyword, the second keyword associated with second data contained in the file storage system, the second keyword having a second parameter, the second parameter not being a parameter of the first data contained in the
10 file storage system.

12. A method for creating an index of keywords, the keywords associated with data contained in a file storage system, the keywords each having a parameter and a parameter value, the parameter describing an attribute of the data, the parameter value being based upon the data, comprising:
15 parsing the data;
collecting a keyword from the data;
creating an index entry by associating with the keyword a pointer to the data upon which the parameter value for the keyword is based; and
creating a list of index entries.

20 13. The method of claim 12 including multiple instances of a given keyword appearing in the data, wherein creating an index entry further comprises creating a single index entry for each keyword, the index entry comprising the keyword and one or more pointers to data contained in the file storage system.

25 14. In a file storage system having an index of keywords, each keyword having a parameter and a parameter value, a method of searching for data, comprising:
receiving a search criterion,
comparing the search criterion with the keywords in the index, and

presenting the results from the comparing step.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the search criterion further comprises any combination of one or more members of the group of:

5 a search criterion parameter, a search criterion parameter value, or a units designator for a search criterion parameter value;

the search criterion parameter comprising a member of a set of all the parameters defined in the data contained in the file storage system, the units designator indicating the units of measurement for the search criterion parameter value.

10 16. The method of claim 14, wherein comparing the search criterion with the keyword further comprises:

representing the search criterion as a contiguous text string, and

comparing the contiguous text string with the keyword, using Boolean logic.

15 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the search criterion further comprises a parameter value for the parameter, the parameter value being based upon the data referred to by the parameter.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the keyword further comprises a units designator for the parameter value, the units designator indicating the units of measurement for the parameter value.

20 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is semi-structured data.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is hypertext data.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is unstructured data.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is text data.

23. The method of claim 14, wherein the parameter is user-defined.

5 24. The method of claim 14, wherein the keyword is a first keyword, the data contained in the file storage system is first data contained in the file storage system and the parameter is a first parameter, further comprising a second keyword, the second keyword associated with second data contained in the file storage system, the second keyword having a second parameter, the second parameter not being a parameter of the first data contained in the file storage system.

10 25. A method for converting data contained in a file storage system into a database, the data associated with a keyword, the keyword including a parameter and a parameter value, the parameter describing an attribute of the data, the parameter value being based upon the data, comprising:

15 reading the data from the file storage system, and
writing a value based upon the data into a data field.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the data field is a member of a data table having a row and a column.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the data field has a column identifier and a row identifier.

20 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the column identifier is associated with the parameter.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the row identifier is associated with the data.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein the data contained in a file system includes a document.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the row identifier is associated with the document.

32. The method of claim 25, wherein the value based upon the data further comprises the parameter value.

5 33. The method of claim 25, wherein the value based upon the data further comprises the data contained in the file storage system.